Setting up of base depots of FCI in Madhya Pradesh

4422. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of base depots of the Food Corporation of India in Madhya Pradesh to provide foodgrains under the Targetted Public Distribution System;

(b) the districts where no base depots exist and the scheme to set up base depots in these districts; and

(c) by when BPL/APL foodgrains would be expected to be provided together from such base depots where from the same are not provided so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) 39 base depots of Food Corporation of India are functioning in Madhya Pradesh (25 for issue of foodgrains under APL/BPL and 14 exclusively under BPL) for providing the foodgrains under Targetted Public Distribution System.

(b) No base depot exist in the following districts of Madhya Pradesh:—

(i) Bhind
(ii) Shivpuri
(iii) Raigarh
(iv) Raisen
(v) Panna
(vi) Mandsaur
(vii) Shajapur
(viii) Sehore
(ix) Neemuch
(x) Barwani
(xi) Harda

There is no proposal for opening of more base depots by FCI in view of decentralization of procurement in the State.

(c) Availability of APL stocks from present 14 depots, from where only BPL stocks are issued, is not possible as these depots are mostly of smaller storage capacity.

Ban on import from Pakistan

4423. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has banned import of sugar from India;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether India also propose to ban import from Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, item-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. However, as per information available, letters of credit opened till March 7, 2001 would be honoured.

(b) Pakistan Government imposed the ban on the import of sugar from India reportedly in view of the availability of adequate stock and price stability of sugar in Pakistan.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Fixing of silencers on aircraft and heliocopters

4424. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Committee of experts and scientists to fix silencers on the engines of the aircraft fighters and the Air Force helicopters so that nobody can hear the aircraft sound on the ground;

(b) if so, whether Government are also making an arrangement for